



NOAA
Sea Grant Internacional
Latin America and Caribbean Program



November 2003 Update and Status Report

NOAA Research International Activities (IA), in conjunction with the University of Rhode Island Sea Grant and the Coastal Resources Center, has been actively working towards assessing the feasibility of adapting the Sea Grant model of applied research, extension and education to Latin America and the Caribbean. This project complements the U.S. State Department's "White Water to Blue Water" (WW2BW) initiative by providing a proven model that allows countries in this region to manage watershed and marine ecosystem based resource issues. The Sea Grant model allows for effective and efficient use of the often-limited resources that are available in developing countries by building a long-term institutional structure that includes constituency driven research, extension and education efforts. The domestic Sea Grant program consists of 30 programs and over 300 affiliated institutions. The network is eager to expand its scope by working with foreign partners and programs. Currently, Latin American partner universities include the University of Central America in Nicaragua and the University of Zamorano (Pan American School of Agriculture) in Honduras.

Progress and accomplishments from June to November 2003 are summarized below:

- Interviewed over 12 organizations and 30 individuals representing government ministries, universities, NGO's and private industry in coastal Ecuador to learn about the social, economic, environmental and political factors affecting marine and coastal resource use and management. Obtained feedback regarding their perspectives concerning the Sea Grant components and the potential benefits the model could provide for addressing marine and coastal resource issues. This first phase of issue-assessment and partnership building compliments similar, earlier efforts in Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador.
- Completed draft of University of Central America CIDEA institutional assessment. Continued preparation of draft institutional assessment for the University of Zamorano.
- Continued to provide updated information to the Sea Grant Association Program Mission Committee (SGA/PMC) International Subcommittee on the activities in Latin America.
- Continued to dialogue with the U.S. State Department and NOAA's Office of International Affairs on the Sea Grant International Project and identified ways to further integrate the activities into WW2BW's three subcommittee areas (Integrated Watershed Management, Marine Ecosystem Management and Education) as well as mechanisms to promote linkages to the Senior Specialist Fulbright Program.
- Completed first draft and Spanish translation of Background paper #1. (A review of the existing experience of international research and extension systems and their effectiveness in developing countries.)
- Continued work on Background Paper #2 (A review of the specific economic, political, environmental and social factors in the Gulf of Fonseca and coastal Ecuador that will affect how the Sea Grant model needs to be adapted to these local contexts.)
- Held roundtables in Central America (Oct. 21-22, 2003) and Ecuador (Oct. 16, 2003). These sessions brought together a wide range of interests from public, private, university and NGO's to collaborate on what issues Sea Grant could address in the regions and how a potential program could be structured.
- Commenced development of an electronic survey instrument and searchable database to catalogue NOAA Research's products, services, technical expertise and language abilities to highlight the programs, labs and individuals that would be most interested in assisting with international related activities for Sea Grant and WW2BW.

Event/Paper/Report	Description	Projected or completed Date
Central America Country Analyses and Partnership Building	Continue to interact with U.S. Embassy, government ministries, universities and stakeholders to gain feedback regarding the Sea Grant program in Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador.	<i>Completed June/July 2003</i>
Ecuador Country Analyses and Partnership Building	Meet with U.S. Embassy, government ministries, universities and a broad range of stakeholders to disseminate information pertaining to the Sea Grant model and gain feedback.	<i>Completed June/August 2003</i>
1 st Background Paper	The Sea Grant Approach to Coastal and Marine Research, Extension, and Education: A Review of International Experience and Opportunities	<i>First Draft completed August 31, 2003</i>
Host-Country Roundtables	Share information with in-country partners and gain feedback on proper University institutions to partner with.	<i>Completed Ecuador: 10/16/03 Central America: 10/21-22/03</i>
Final Ecuador and Honduras Roundtable Reports Due	Final revisions made to the roundtable reports and final documents prepared in Spanish and English	Due November 21, 2003
Preliminary Proposal Written	A preliminary proposal based upon the two background papers developed.	Due December 5, 2003
Partners Meeting in Washington D.C.	Partnership meeting between NOAA, Sea Grant, and URI/CRC to be held in D.C..	December 8, 2003
2 nd Background Paper	An in-depth look at the social, economic, environmental and political factors affecting the Gulf of Fonseca and coastal Ecuador and the ways in which a Sea Grant program could address these issues.	Due By December 8, 2003
International Meetings on Sea Grant Latin America	Meetings to be held with NOAA International Affairs, State Department, USAID, etc..	December 9, 2003
Widely distribute both Background Papers	Disseminate both background papers in Spanish and English to all partners for review and comment.	By December 20, 2003
Completion of 10 – 15 page proposal	10 –15 page proposal/executive summary of the background papers and host-country roundtable discussions.	Due by January 31, 2004
Preparation for WW2BW	Prep for WW2BW	January 1 – March 21, 2004
Dissemination of the 10 – 15 page proposal.	Disseminate the 10 – 15 page proposal to key partners and target individuals for WW2BW.	February 1 – March 21, 2004
White Water to Blue Water Partnership Building Workshop	Highlight existing partnerships and develop new channels of cooperation in accord with regional network goal. Ecosystems Management, Integrated Watershed Management, Education, and Training Institute	March 21-26, 2004
Development of a full proposal.	Working with country partners, U.S. partners, and funding organizations to develop a full proposal.	April 1 – September 1, 2004
September Sea Grant International Symposium	Focused discussions of both Background Papers and the proposal with a funding organization and experts in the marine and coastal fields.	September 2004
Begin Implementation.	Implementation	Ongoing

NOAA Research International Activities and the National Sea Grant Office are both committed to developing beneficial partnerships with a wide range of governments, resource management agencies, universities, non-governmental organizations and private industries to ensure that the Sea Grant model is adapted and utilized in the most effective way to address coastal and marine resource issues. IA openly welcomes your feedback, comments and opinions regarding this initiative. Please contact:

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